

S-D organization in St. Petersburg were wholly absorbed in internal struggles.

THE DUMA CAPITULATES

On June 20, the government published a declaration: There will be no compulsory alienation of privately owned lands; the peasants have nothing to expect from the Duma; all their hopes must rest with the Tsar and his government. The Cadets introduced a resolution stating the firm intention of the Duma to enact an agrarian law based on compulsory transfer of privately owned land to the peasants and calling on the people to keep quiet, preserve order, and wait. The Laborites objected to the concluding paragraph of the resolution. In the final vote, the resolution obtained 124 votes against 53, with more than 100 abstentions. Obviously it did not represent the voice of the Duma. The proposal to publish it received only 120 supporting votes with some 160 abstentions.

The Duma of Wrath had reached the end of the road.

AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED

The Council of the Unemployed had an impressive network of hot-meal stations and registration offices in all parts of the city. It included delegates from many large factories. They were supposed to aid the unemployed in finding work, but actually the Council had become an important factor in the economic labor movement. It registered striking workers as unemployed, distributed meals to them and members of their families, and occasionally opened special stations near striking factories.

The employers complained to the Municipal Council, and the chairman of the Municipal Committee summoned me. "Are you distributing meal tickets to the strikers?" he asked.

"Certainly! How can we discriminate against them?"

"But the city appropriated money for the unemployed, not for strikers!"

"What is the difference?" I replied. "Their families must eat. Didn't all our men lose their jobs because of strikes?"

"Don't you see the difference between political and economic strikes?"

"All right," I agreed. "Our stations will put up signs: 'For political strikers only! Those who are hungry because of economic strikes are not admitted. Signed . . . ' You will sign the order."